

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re U.S. Patent Application of )  
SHICHI et al. )  
Application Number: To Be Assigned )  
Filed: Concurrently Herewith )  
For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR SPECIMEN )  
FABRICATION )  
Attorney Docket No.: NITT.0161 )

Honorable Assistant Commissioner  
for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Sir:

Prior to an examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified application as follows: